

SUICIDE IN IDAHO

Suicide was the eleventh leading cause of death in the U.S. in 2003; however, it was the eighth leading cause of death in Idaho in 2004. Approximately 18 Idahoans died from suicide every month from 2002 through 2004. Over 84 percent of these were males. Adult females were significantly more likely to report they had ever attempted suicide than male adults. In 2004, 6.4 percent of females and 3.0 percent of males reported they had ever attempted suicide. Among those individuals who reported they had attempted suicide in the past, 44.0 percent reported their last suicide attempt was more than ten years ago.¹

HIGHLIGHTS

In Idaho from 2002 to 2004:

- 660 suicides
 - 555 men (84.1 percent)
 - 105 women (15.9 percent)
- Males were more than five times as likely to die from suicide than females
- 41.5 percent of those who died from suicide were aged 35-54
- Firearms were used in nearly 65 percent of all suicides
- Suicide was the 2nd leading cause of death to Idahoans aged 10-34

In the U.S. in 2003:

- Suicide was the 11th leading cause of death
- 31,484 suicides
 - 25,203 men (80.1 percent)
 - 6,281 women (19.9 percent)
- Males were four times as likely to die from suicide than females
- The suicide death rate was 10.8 deaths per 100,000 population
- 41.6 percent of those who died from suicide were aged 35-54
- Firearms were used in nearly 54 percent of all suicides
- Suicide was the 3rd leading cause of death to Americans aged 10-34

Among Idaho adults in 2004 who reported ever attempting suicide:

- 68.9 percent were females
- 31.1 percent were males
- 44.0 percent stated their last attempt was more than ten years ago
- 28.4 percent were aged 18-24
- 38.5 percent were aged 35-54
- 2.3 percent were 65 and older

AGE and GENDER

473 of the 660 suicide deaths (71.7 percent) in Idaho from 2002 to 2004 were to people younger than 55. Suicide was the second leading cause of death to Idahoans aged 10-34, exceeded only by accidents. In 2004, 68.9 percent of those individuals aged 18 and older who said they had ever attempted suicide before were females. Although more females attempt suicide than males, males were more than five times as likely to die from suicide in Idaho from 2002 through 2004.¹

Number and Age-Specific Suicide Rates by Gender
Idaho, 2002-2004

Age	Females		Males	
	Number	Rate	Number*	Rate
TOTAL	105	5.1	555	27.0
10-14	4	2.6	4	2.4
15-19	6	3.8	39	23.2
20-24	3	1.9	48	29.5
25-34	13	5.0	82	29.3
35-44	26	9.2	116	40.1
45-54	28	9.9	104	36.9
55-64	17	8.9	64	33.4
65-74	5	4.0	45	38.9
75-84	3	3.2	34	48.9
85+	-	-	18	82.7

Rates are per 100,000 population in specified gender or age group.

*Includes one age not stated.

The number of deaths in the 10-14 year old age group was the same for males and females. This was the only age group in which the suicide rate among females was higher than it was among males. The suicide rate among Idahoans aged 20-24 was 93.7 percent lower for females than males. Similarly, males aged 75-84 were more than 15 times as likely to commit suicide than females aged 75-84. The highest age-specific suicide rate for females was among the 45-54 year olds, however among males in the same age group, it was the fifth-highest rate. There are nearly twice as many women as men in the 85 and older age group, but all of the suicides among Idahoans aged 85 and older were to males from 2002 to 2004.

IDAHO COUNTIES

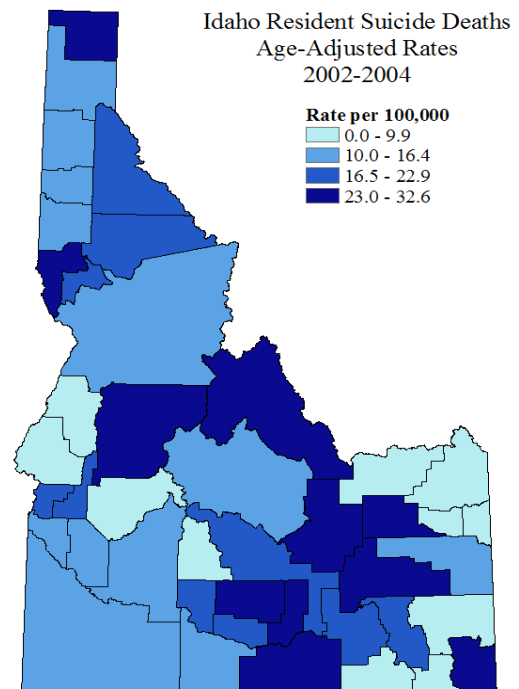
Idaho Resident Suicide Deaths 2002-2004

Residence	Total Deaths	Average-Annual Age-Adjusted Rates (per 100,000 population) ²
IDAHO	660	16.5
District 1	98	17.0
Benewah	3	10.8
Bonner	19	15.5
Boundary	10	32.6
Kootenai	58	16.4
Shoshone	8	19.1
District 2	62	19.9
Clearwater	5	18.2
Idaho	8	16.3
Latah	15	14.1
Lewis	2	16.9
Nez Perce	32	27.2
District 3	88	14.6
Adams	-	-
Canyon	59	14.0
Gem	8	16.9
Owyhee	5	15.7
Payette	14	22.6
Washington	2	6.6
District 4	171	15.7
Ada	152	15.8
Boise	1	4.4
Elmore	10	12.2
Valley	8	31.6
District 5	89	18.2
Blaine	13	20.0
Camas	-	-
Cassia	15	25.0
Gooding	9	21.5
Jerome	11	20.5
Lincoln	3	24.2
Minidoka	15	27.0
Twin Falls	23	11.6
District 6	85	19.0
Bannock	40	18.5
Bear Lake	6	32.3
Bingham	29	24.6
Butte	2	23.2
Caribou	1	4.8
Franklin	2	6.3
Oneida	1	8.3
Power	4	19.1
District 7	67	14.2
Bonneville	34	13.8
Clark	-	-
Custer	2	15.2
Fremont	3	8.8
Jefferson	15	27.4
Lemhi	6	24.5
Madison	6	7.7
Teton	1	5.0

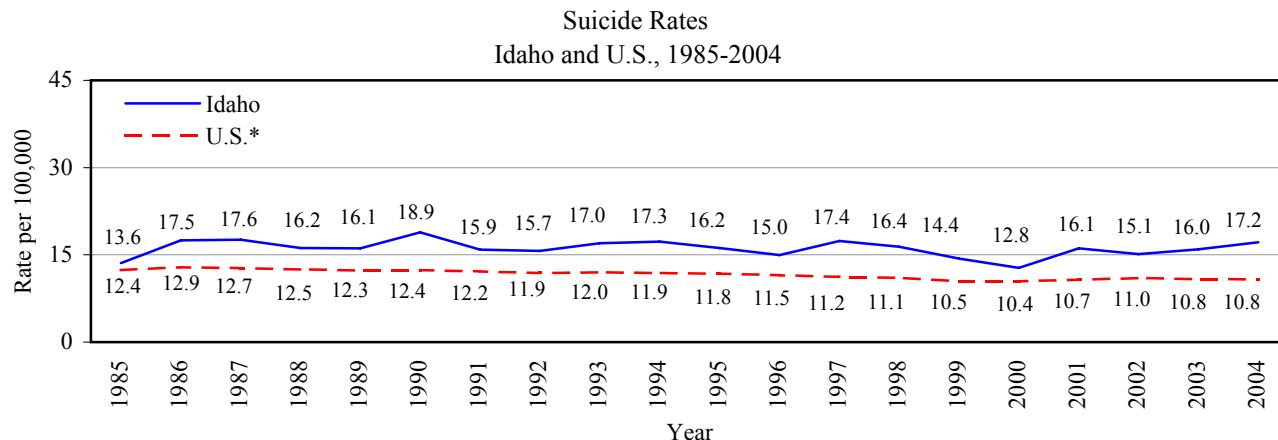
Idaho's age-adjusted suicide rate for 2002 through 2004 was 16.5 per 100,000 population. The county and district-level rates varied greatly. Boundary County had the highest rate of 32.6 per 100,000 population. There were no suicides from 2002 through 2004 to residents of Adams, Camas, and Clark counties.

The counties with the three highest suicide rates were Boundary, Bear Lake, and Valley. For those counties that had at least one suicide from 2002 to 2004, the three counties with the lowest suicide rates were Boise, Caribou, and Teton counties.

While District 4 had the largest percentage of suicides (25.9 percent) from 2002 to 2004 of all the districts in Idaho, the age-adjusted suicide rate was 4.8 percent lower than Idaho's rate. Although only 9.4 percent of all the suicides from 2002 to 2004 occurred to residents in District 2, the district had the highest age-adjusted suicide rate (19.9 per 100,000 population) in the state.



IDAHO and the UNITED STATES

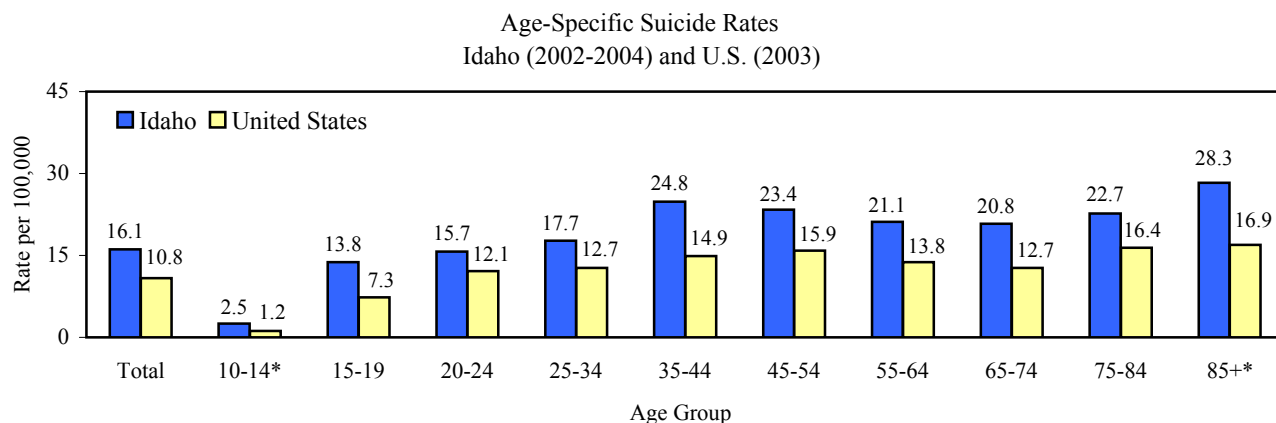


* U.S. 2004 is preliminary.

Statistics for 1985 to 1998 have been revised using Modified ICD-9 codes and comparability ratios.

Source U.S. data: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) WISQARS on-line database, 2006.

The U.S. crude death rate decreased in a relatively steady manner over the past twenty years, decreasing thirteen percent from 12.4 in 1985 to 10.8 deaths per 100,000 population in 2004. Idaho's suicide rate fluctuated greatly over the past two decades, and it has consistently been higher than the suicide rate for the United States. Idaho's rate ranged from a low of 12.8 deaths per 100,000 population in 2000 to a high of 18.9 deaths per 100,000 population in 1990.



* Rates for Idaho are based on <20 deaths. Caution is advised when interpreting rates based on small numbers.

Source U.S. data: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) WISQARS on-line database, 2006.

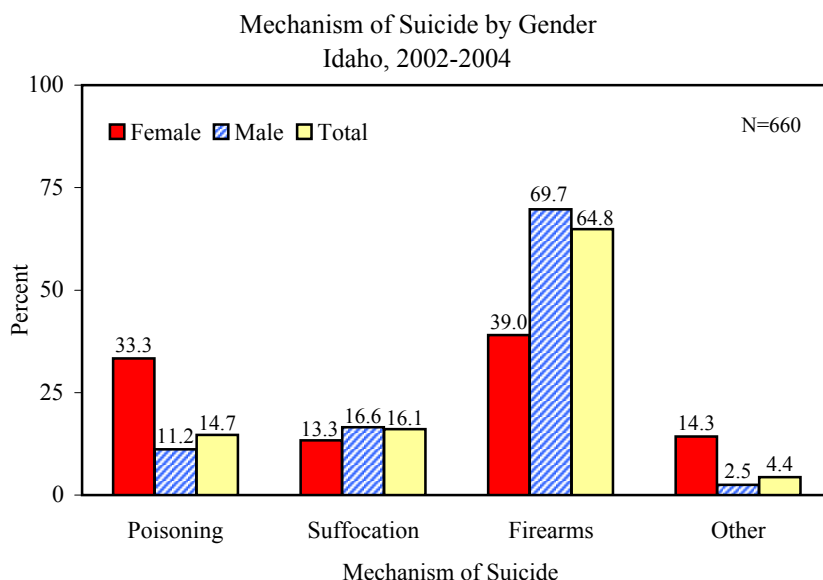
Idaho's average-annual suicide rate for 2002-2004 (16.1 per 100,000 population) was 49.1 percent higher than the 2003 U.S. rate (10.8 per 100,000 population). Idaho's age-specific suicide rates were higher than the U.S. in each age group category. The largest difference was in the 10-14 year old age category, Idaho's rate (2.5 per 100,000 population) was two times higher than the U.S. rate (1.2 per 100,000 population). The smallest difference occurred in the 20-24 year old age category, however, Idaho's rate (15.7 per 100,000 population) was still 29.7 percent higher than the U.S. rate (12.1 per 100,000 population).

The ten states with the highest suicide rates, ranked in order, in 2003 were Wyoming, Montana, Nevada, Alaska, New Mexico, Oregon, Colorado, Idaho, Arizona, and West Virginia. Seven of these ten states are located in the mountain states region, which includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

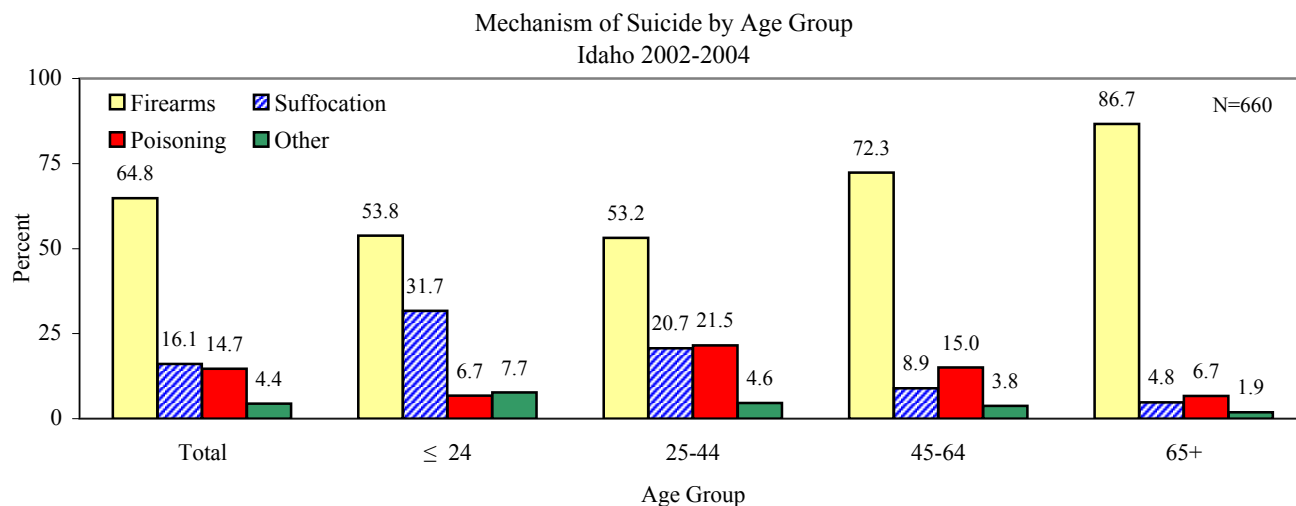
MECHANISM of SUICIDE

Firearms were used in nearly 65 percent of the suicides among Idahoans from 2002 through 2004; males (69.7 percent) were nearly two times more likely to use firearms than females (39.0 percent).

Women were three times more likely to use poisoning as a suicide mechanism than men. Poisoning includes drug overdoses and exposure to gas vapors. Suffocation (hanging) was used in 16.6 percent of the suicides among males, compared with 13.3 percent among females.



Firearms were used in the majority of all suicides from 2002 through 2004 for all ages. However, other suicide mechanisms varied greatly by age. For example, among Idahoans aged 24 and younger, 31.7 percent used suffocation as the mechanism; however, only 4.8 percent of Idahoans aged 65 and older used this mechanism. Similarly, 21.5 percent of Idahoans aged 25-44 used poisoning as the mechanism while only 6.7 percent of Idahoans aged 65 and older and Idahoans aged 24 and younger used poisoning. Firearms were used in 86.7 percent of the suicides among Idahoans aged 65 and older. Males, who typically use firearms as the mechanism, accounted for 92.3 percent of the suicides among Idahoans aged 65 and older.



1. Idaho Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). Bureau of Health Policy and Vital Statistics, Division of Health, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.
2. Age-adjusted rates are artificial measures developed to eliminate the bias inherent in differing age compositions, thus allowing comparisons between geographic regions. Average-annual age-adjusted mortality rates by county and district were adjusted to Idaho's three-year average-annual rate (standardized to the 2000 U.S. standard million) using the indirect method of standardization. Idaho's rate was standardized using the direct method.

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Bureau of Health Policy and Vital Statistics (October 2006).

Costs associated with this fact sheet are available from Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. HW-1206